

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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**OPINION 373**

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species  
in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus  
*Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 (Class Insecta, Order Siphon-  
aptera)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 373

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## OPINION 373

### DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE GENUS " PALAEOPSYLLA " WAGNER, 1903 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER SIPHONAPTERA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) all designations, indications or selections of a type species for the genus *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (b) the nominal species *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf, 1910, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 896 and 897 respectively :—

- (a) *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Jordan & Rothschild (1913) : *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909) ;
- (b) *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above : *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf, 1910).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 517 and 518 respectively :—

- (a) *schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909, as published in the combination *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* (specific name of type species of *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1903) ;
- (b) *similis* Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla similis* (specific name of type species of *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903).

## I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 21st January 1951 Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins (*British Museum (Natural History), The Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*) submitted the following application for the use of the Plenary Powers to designate for the genus *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) a type species in harmony with accustomed usage:—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species for the genus “*Palaeopsylla*” Wagner, 1903 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) in harmony with the generally accepted use of that name**

By G. H. E. HOPKINS, O.B.E., M.A.

(*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to set aside a valid, but overlooked or ignored, selection of a type species for the genus *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, and to designate as the type species of this genus the species that is universally accepted as such, thus avoiding the serious and quite unnecessary confusion that would inevitably result from the strict application of the normal Rules in this case.

2. Wagner described the genus *Palaeopsylla* in 1903 (*Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 36 : 137), including in it “drei paläarktische Arten : *P. sibirica* W., *P. dasyncnemus* Rothsch. und *P. gracilis* T. Die von mir beschriebene *Typhlopsylla intermedia* . . . muss auch zu der Gattung *Palaeopsylla* gestellt worden”. Of the species mentioned by Wagner, *Ctenopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1898, is now placed in *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, *Typhlopsylla dasyncnemus* Rothschild, 1897, in *Doratopsylla* Jordan and Rothschild, 1912, *Typhlopsylla gracilis* Taschenberg, 1880, is referred to *Palaeopsylla* as a synonym of *Palaeopsylla minor* (Dale, 1878), while *Typhlopsylla intermedia* Wagner, 1902, is now in *Tritopsylla* da Cunha, 1929. It is claimed (and the claim was accepted as correct by Wagner) that the species that Wagner described in 1903 (*Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 36 : 142, pl. 2, fig. 2) as *Palaeopsylla gracilis* Tasch. was not Taschenberg’s species but one subsequently described by Dampf in 1910 (*Schr. phys. ökon. Ges. Königs.* 51 : 327, figs. 4, 5d) as *Palaeopsylla similis*.

3. In 1905 (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 29 : 129) Baker included “*Paleopsylla* Wagner (type *sibirica*)” in a key to genera of fleas ; the name of the genus is misspelt, but is given correctly on p. 135 of the same paper.

4. No subsequent author has accepted Baker's undoubtedly valid selection of a type species for *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903. Wagner himself (1909, *Bull. Mus. Caucase* 4 : 196, 201)\* included "*Typhlopsylla sibirica* Wagn." (i.e. *Ctenopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1898) in his new genus *Amphipsylla*. Dampf (1910, *Schr. phys. ökon. Ges. Königs.* 51 : 324—330), though not making any assertion as to the type species of *Palaeopsylla* in this excellent review of the genus, included in it only species which are still considered to be congeneric with *Typhlopsylla gracilis* Taschenberg. In his *Katalog der palaearktischen Aphanipteren* (1930) Wagner made (: 20) the first assertion as to the type species of *Palaeopsylla* subsequent to that of Baker, giving it as "gen. typ. *similis*" and listing "*gracilis* Wagn. 1902" (which should be 1903) as an error of determination and a synonym of *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf, 1910. This selection, though 25 years too late, has (with one exception) been universally accepted, either implicitly or (as in Costa Lima and Hathaway, 1946, *Pulgas, bibliografia, catálogo e animais por elas sugados* : 202) explicitly. The exception is only partial : Stiles and Stanley (1932, *Bull. U.S. nat. Inst. Hlth.* 159 : 836), though stating that the type species of *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, was *sub judice*, listed under this generic name only species congeneric with *Typhlopsylla gracilis* Taschenberg and *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf. The statement of Stiles and Stanley that the case was *sub judice* should mean that it had been referred to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, but this was apparently never done.

5. Reverting to *Amphipsylla*, Wagner (1909 : 196, 201) included in this genus a new species, *A. schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909 (: 197, 201) and also *Typhlopsylla sibirica* Wagn., without indicating which of these species he considered to be the type species (the statement of Stiles and Stanley, 1932 : 841, that *A. schelkovnikovi* Wagner is the type species by original designation is incorrect). Jordan and Rothschild (1913, *Zoologist* 1913 (869) : 402), in a paper on the genus *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, stated "Genotype *shelkovnikovi* [sic], Wagn. (1909)". This is undoubtedly a definite type selection, and it would have been effective in preserving *Amphipsylla* Wagner in the sense in which it is universally used but for Baker's prior action in selecting a species (*Ctenopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1898) that is undoubtedly congeneric with *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* Wagner as type species of *Palaeopsylla* : because of Baker's action, however, *Amphipsylla* Wagner 1909, is a subjective synonym of *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, under a strict application of the *Règles*. No author appears ever to have used the name *Amphipsylla* Wagner for any other group of species than that which includes *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909.

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\* The double page-references to this paper are due to it having been published both in Russian and in German, the first page-reference in each instance being to the Russian version.



6. The position is, therefore, that if the *Règles* are to be strictly applied the name *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, must be transferred from the group of species to which it is universally applied (which would be left nameless) to the group equally universally known as *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, which belongs to a different family. No conceivable purpose could be served by this transfer.

7. In order to avoid the state of chaos that would result from strict application of the *Règles* to this case, I now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers :—
  - (a) to set aside all designations, indications or selections of a type species for the genus *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, made prior to the decision now proposed to be given ;
  - (b) to designate *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf, 1910, to be the type species of *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 ;
- (2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the two names mentioned below :—
  - (a) *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by designation as proposed under (1) (b) above, under the Plenary Powers : *Palaeopsylla similis* Dampf, 1910) ;
  - (b) *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by designation of Jordan and Rothschild, 1913 : *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *similis* Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla similis* (trivial name of type species of *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903) ;
  - (b) *schelkovnikovi* Wagner, 1909, as published in the combination *Amphipsylla schelkovnikovi* (trivial name of type species of *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909).

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. **Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Hopkins' application, the question of the use of the

Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating for the genus *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, a type species in harmony with accustomed usage was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 627.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 13th May 1952 and was published on 23rd July 1952 in Part 8 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hopkins, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 239—241).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56) Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 23rd July 1952 (a) in Part 8 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Hopkins' application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Public Notice was given to certain general zoological serial publications and also to a number of entomological serials in Europe and America.

**5. No objection received to the action proposed :** The issue of the Public Notices specified in paragraph 4 above elicited no objection to the use of the Plenary Powers in the manner proposed in Mr. Hopkins' application.

### III.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)35 :** On 17th March 1954 a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)35) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name *Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903,

as set out in paragraph 7 at the foot of page 240 and the top of page 241 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*” [i.e. in paragraph 7 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**7. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 17th June 1954.

**8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)35 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)35 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Holthuis ; Vokes ; Hering ; Bonnet ; Boschma ;  
Lemche ; Dymond ; do Amaral ; Esaki ; Mertens ;  
Jaczewski ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hankó ;  
Pearson ; Stoll ; Hemming ; Cabrera ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

**9. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 18th June 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)35, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the



foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" :**

On 22nd March 1955 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)35.

**11. Original References :** The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, *Mitt. Kaukas. Mus.* 4 : 196, 201  
(This paper was published both in Russian and in German. The first page-reference is to the Russian text, the second, to the German text.)

*Palaeopsylla* Wagner, 1903, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 36 : 137  
*schelkovnikovi*, *Amphipsylla*, Wagner, 1909, *Mitt. Kaukas. Mus.* 4 : 197, 201

(For an explanation of the double page reference see note above to *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909.)

*similis*, *Palaeopsylla*, Dampf, 1910, *Schr. phys. ökon. Ges. Königs.* 51 : 327, figs. 4, 5d

**12.** The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Jordan & Rothschild, 1913, *Zoologist* 1913 (869) : 402.

**13. Family-Group name aspects :** The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has been ascertained that an addition, or additions, to the foregoing *Official List* and/or to the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* will need to be made in order to complete the action, which, under the General Directives given to the International Commission by the International

Congress of Zoology, is required to be taken in the present case. This question is now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 125 has been allotted.

14. At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was "trivial name". This was altered to "specific name" by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

15. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Seventy-Three (373) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Second day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**